

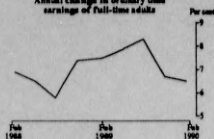
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 24 May 1990

The week in statistics ...

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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
Annual change in ordinary time
earnings of full-time adults



Continued steady wage growth

Average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult employees rose by 1.6 per cent, from \$516.60 to \$524.80 in the three months to February 1990, preliminary estimates have shown.

The rise results from the flow-through of increases handed down in the National Wage Case decision of August 1989. This decision allowed for an increase of \$15.00 (or 3%, whichever is greater) for skilled workers, \$12.50 for semi-skilled workers and \$10.00 for unskilled workers. It is estimated that approximately 85 per cent of full-time adult employees had received an increase by the February reference period.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FEBRUARY 1990
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings (\$)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter in previous year
Males	555.80	1.6	6.5
Females	460.40	1.3	6.8
Persons	524.80	1.6	6.6

Average weekly *total* earnings for full-time adults increased by 0.8 per cent in the three months from November 1989, and 6.5 per cent in the year from February 1989, to \$558.30.

It should be noted by those using average weekly earnings figures for contractual adjustment or related purposes, that these estimates are preliminary. Final figures will be published in *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, February 1990* (6302.0), scheduled for release about 14 June 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia Preliminary* (6301.0), or contact Information Services (see page 6).

ASCO occupation definitions

Detailed information on the classification of Australia's occupations is provided by a new publication *ASCO Occupation Definitions* which was released last week.

In defining the 1,079 occupations which make up the finest level of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), it is a companion volume to the existing ABS publication *ASCO Statistical Classification* (1222.0).

The publication is a necessary reference document for occupation level coding to ASCO. It is part of a new classification system which has been developed over nearly ten years by the ABS in conjunction with the Department of Employment, Education and Training in response to strong user demand for a skill-based classification.

The new system will ensure comparability of statistics from major Commonwealth Departments and agencies, including the Commonwealth Employment Service. It will prove particularly useful for human resource management, and in many fields of research and planning, including education and training, social and medical research and vocational guidance.

The information given for each occupation in the publication includes: occupation title and commonly used alternative titles; a lead statement specifying the boundaries of the occupation; the primary tasks performed in the occupation; entry requirements for the occupation; and related occupations contained in other groups in the classification.

A comprehensive introduction to ASCO and its uses may be found in the ABS information paper *ASCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations* (1221.0).

For further information, order the publication *ASCO Occupation Definitions* (1223.0), or contact David Hunter on (06) 252 5757.

Dramatic rise in luxury car registrations

Registrations of the top five selling European car makes increased in March 1990 by 1,041, a monthly rise of 108 per cent. This pushed their share of the market from 2.6 per cent in February to 4 per cent for March.

BMW registrations numbered highest at 664, an increase over February of 94 per cent. Mercedes Benz vehicles were up 154 per cent to 582 registrations while Volvo, Saab and Jaguar recorded increases of 95, 46 and 213 per cent respectively.

The rise in new luxury car registrations follows the announcement that the Federal Government would levy an extra 20 per cent sales tax from 1 May on the purchase of cars costing more than \$42,910.

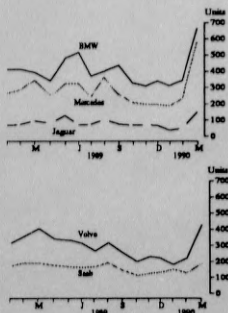
Registrations for the top five makes of all new motor vehicles grew by 11,084 to 50,676 in March, a rise of 28 per cent over February. While each of the top five makes showed increases, Toyota recorded the biggest rise with 3,011 followed by Ford (2,659), Holden (2,345), Nissan (1,685) and Mitsubishi (1,384). The remaining makes recorded 2,875 more registrations than February.

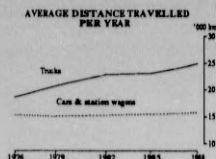
For the third consecutive month, the market share of the top five makes fell (0.6%) and now stands at 81.5 per cent. Ford holds 23.8 per cent, Toyota 20.5 per cent, Holden 15.3 per cent, Mitsubishi 11.1 per cent and Nissan 10.8 per cent.

Aggregate estimates of March vehicle registrations were contained in preliminary statistics published on 30 April and reported in *Statistics Weekly* of 3 May, 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9303.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW EUROPEAN CARS
Top five makes





Full picture of motor vehicle use

Registered motor vehicles travelled almost 154,000 million kilometres (km) in Australia in the twelve months to September 1988.

This was an increase of almost 10 per cent over the corresponding figure three years earlier, despite a rise of less than six per cent in total registrations.

Cars and station wagons, which accounted for almost 80 per cent of registrations, travelled over 75 per cent of the total distance at an average of 15,800 km per vehicle and consumed an average of 11.9 litres of fuel per 100 km (23.7 mpg). More than one fifth of the distance travelled by cars and station wagons was for business use with a further one quarter for travel to and from work.

Rigid and articulated trucks together only travelled about a tenth of the total distance travelled by cars and station wagons but, as the table shows, the average distance travelled and average fuel consumption recorded by these trucks were well above the figures for cars. Over 93 per cent of the distance travelled by rigid trucks was for business purposes while for articulated trucks business use accounted for 99.7 per cent.

MOTOR VEHICLES, SEPTEMBER 1988

	<i>Estimated number of vehicles ('000)</i>	<i>Average kilometres travelled in previous twelve months ('000)</i>	<i>Average rate of fuel consumption (litres per 100 km)</i>
Cars and station wagons	7,376	15.8	11.9
Motor cycles	294	6.5	6.0
Utilities and panel vans	1,179	18.6	13.4
Rigid trucks	405	19.4	26.1
Articulated trucks	49	78.7	54.2
Other truck types	23	11.3	28.1
Buses	41	35.3	29.9
<i>All motor vehicles</i>	<i>9,365</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>14.0</i>

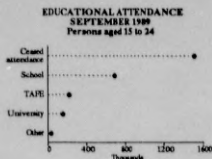
Total fuel consumption by registered motor vehicles was 21,577 million litres, with petrol (both leaded and unleaded) accounting for over 75 per cent.

These are some samples of the detailed final results of the 1988 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, now published in a 42-page booklet which provides a statistical picture of vehicle usage and road transport patterns for the year ended 30 September 1988.

The information in the publication itself represents only a small part of the data available from the ABS. More detailed information tailored to meet specific requirements can be supplied on a choice of output media, including floppy disk, microfiche and hard copy.

For further information, order the publication *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia (9208.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

How our youth combine education and work



A national survey on youth education shows that 45 per cent of the 15 to 24 year old population were attending a school or tertiary educational institution on either a full or part-time basis.

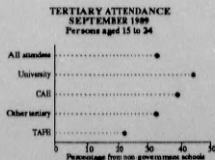
The September 1989 survey also showed that 44 per cent of these students were employed. This compares with an estimated "employment rate" of 81 per cent for people in this age group who were *not* studying.

Just over a quarter of school students were employed (almost all on a part-time basis). For tertiary students, about 65 per cent were employed — quite a high proportion considering that 57 per cent of tertiary students study full-time.

There were strong links between the levels of course attempted and the incidence of full-time employment. Only 12 per cent of the 221,000 students studying for degrees had a full-time job. This compared with 39 per cent of the 188,000 studying for a certificate or diploma and 88 per cent of students seeking trade qualifications.

**EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1989
Persons aged 15 to 24
('000)**

	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total
Attending an educational institution	539	74	603	1,217
School	188	40	447	675
University	89	9	74	171
CAE	55	7	35	97
TAFE/Technical College	185	15	37	237
Other	23	3	10	36
Not attending	1,213	139	151	1,503
Total persons aged 15 to 24	1,752	213	754	2,719



Just under one in three school students were enrolled in non-government schools. Among tertiary students, about the same proportion had previously been enrolled in non-government schools (see chart).

The main results of the survey, published last week, provide a comprehensive profile of the educational and labour force position of our young people.

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance (Persons Aged 15 to 24)*, Australia (6772.0), or contact Leo Stinson on (06) 252 6578.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

✉ PO BOX 10
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ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
24 May 1990

All the week's releases: 16 to 22 May

General

- Pocket Year Book, Aust., 1990 (1302.0; \$7.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., May 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
- Statistics Weekly, 17 May 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
- Summary of Statistics, Vic., 1990 (1302.2; \$8.00)
- Victoria at a Glance, 1990 (1305.2; free)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, May 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)

Census of Population and Housing

- Information Paper: Census 86 — Census Products Price List — Edition 7 (2177.0; free)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., April 1990 (6203.0; \$13.00)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., February Qtr 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- Industrial Disputes, Aust., February 1990 (6321.0; \$5.50)

Agriculture

- Sheep and Wool, Aust., 1989-90, Preliminary (7114.0; \$10.00)
- Principal Agricultural Commodities, Vic., 1989-90, Preliminary (7111.2; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Production of Paper, Plastics, Paints, Industrial Chemicals and Detergents, Aust., February 1990 (8362.0; \$5.50)
- Building Approvals, Qld, March 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, February 1990 (8741.3; \$5.00)
- Tourist Accommodation, WA, December Qtr 1989 (8635.5; \$8.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., February 1990 (8741.6; \$3.30)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., March 1990 (9303.0; \$9.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 5 June 1990

- 24** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, March 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Retail Trade, Australia, March 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 25** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, March 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 28** Balance of Payments, Australia, April 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
Export Price Index, Australia, March 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 29** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, March Qtr 1990 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$3.50)
Production Statistics, Australia, April 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, April 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- 30** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, March Qtr 1990 (5206.0; \$16.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, March 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- 31** Foreign Investment, Australia, March 1990, Preliminary (5307.0; \$6.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, March 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
- *** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, March 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)

June

- 5** Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Australia, March Qtr 1990 (8219.0; \$7.50)

* Expected to be released during the week ending Friday, 1 June.

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 22 May 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Feb. 90) (trend estimate)	8.1	7.9	9.6	4.7	6.2	7.1	n.a.	8.0	7.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Mar. 90)*	7.4	29.5	3.0	6.8	-8.3	n.a.	-4.6	29.1	11.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Mar. 90)	-19.4	-15.6	-22.4	18.9	-37.9	4.3	-42.6	-36.9	-20.0
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (April 90)*	1.6	3.6	4.9	1.6	1.9	6.5	-11.5	3.9	2.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	2.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Sept. 89)	0.9	1.2	3.2	1.0	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.7	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE Seasonally adjusted April 1990



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The latest ...

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Key national indicators – consolidated to 22 May 1990

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	98,703	91,531	0.9	10.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	69,796	64,190	-0.2	4.2
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	7,807	7,148	-2.9	4.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,903	5,420	-4.6	-0.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to June 90	14,967	n.a.	n.a.	5.6
Retail turnover	— current prices (e)	"	Feb. 90	6,174	7,015	0.7	8.7
	— 1984-85 prices (e)	"	Dec. qtr 89	16,697	14,831	0.2	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Mar. 90	62,172	57,566	8.8	11.7
Dwelling unit approvals	— current prices	"	"	12,315	11,937	-0.1	-25.1
Value of all building approvals	— 1984-85 prices	\$m	"	2,090	1,976	-17.6	-27.3
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	-0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,248	5,010	-2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Dec. qtr 89	37,329	35,539	3.1	9.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to June 90	71,716	n.a.	n.a.	9.7
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Apr. 90	7,894.3	7,861.0	0.6	2.7
Unemployment rate †		%	"	6.3	6.2	0.1	0.1
Participation rate †		"	"	63.8	63.4	0.3	0.6
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Feb. 90	120.8	n.a.	1.3	8.6
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		Feb. 90	562.5	n.a.	0.5	6.3
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Dec. qtr 89	5,575	4,523	-1.0	15.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 90	524.80	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Apr. 90	15.05	n.a.	-0.4	-2.2
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	"	13.80	n.a.	0.4	0.4
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Mar. 90	3,847	3,911	-4.6	14.9
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,254	4,434	9.6	12.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-407	-523	n.a.	0.9
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-730	-916	-214.8	-9.0
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,796	-1,923	-53.3	-7.0
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 89	n.a.	108.4	0.6	1.7
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Dec. 89	117,399	n.a.	3.3	18.2
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	160,444	n.a.	3.4	20.7
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A		Apr. 90	0.7641	n.a.	1.1	-5.0
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.6	n.a.	1.8	-0.5
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Sep. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000		Feb. 90	193	176	-4.3	0.3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 24 May 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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